

REMARKS

Claims 25-28 are canceled herewith. Thus, pursuant to the entry of the instant amendment, claims 1, 3-7, 24, 30-41, and 43 are pending and under consideration.

In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled the objectionable phrase "or a protecting group" from independent claims 1 and 24. Applicants have also canceled non-elected/withdrawn claims 25-28. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. However, Applicants reiterate that the amendments are presented solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution and should not be construed as Applicants' agreement with or acquiescence to the grounds of rejection previously set forth.

Given that claims 3-7, 30-41 and 43 were designated as "objected to" (i.e., allowable), it would seem that claims 1 and 24, as well as the presently pending dependents thereof (i.e., claims 3-7, 30-41, and 43) are in now condition for allowance. An early indication of such is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Office Action of March 5, 2010 set a three-month shortened statutory period for response. Accordingly, response is due on or before **June 5, 2010**. Applicants submit that this response is timely and no additional fees, apart from those included herewith, are required. However, in the event that further fees are required to enter the instant response and/or maintain the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-2101.

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If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this communication, she is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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